

*May 10 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1996*

of improved quality of life and service to people as a result of it.

This fall, I'll announce the winners of a nationwide competition to identify schools that have done the best job in encouraging this kind of service. Students at those schools will become national service scholars. A year from now I want it to be even bigger. I want every principal in America to be able to stand up before a graduating class and announce the name of a national service scholar. We should make service to the community a part of every high school in America and a part of the life of every dedicated citizen in the United States.

So, my fellow Americans, in spite of all we have to do to create more opportunity, we also must find a way to urge, cajole, plead, generate, demand more responsibility for ourselves, our families, our communities, and our country.

This summer in Atlanta we will celebrate the centennial of the modern Olympics. It's a great honor to host those Olympics in the United States. But I ask you to think when you see these young people come out about more than medals and who will win and lose. The real meaning of the Olympics is what miracles happen to people when they make a deep and profound commitment to take personal responsibility for just becoming the best that they can be and when they're willing to work with teammates to make their common endeavors even greater. That is the great strength of America.

You know, the president mentioned earlier that—or maybe it was the chairman of your board—about Pennsylvania's role in starting this country. And I want you to think about this as I close. Our Founding Fathers, who did so much of their work right here in Pennsylvania, would not be surprised that in this new era,

with all of its possibilities, there are still a lot of tough problems. They were very smart. They knew there would never be a perfect, problem-free time. They wouldn't be surprised at all. But they would be very surprised and bitterly disappointed if we were to give into pessimism about these problems, deny their existence, and walk away from them. They knew—you can read it in "The Federalist Papers," you can read it in the founding documents—they knew that freedom requires responsibility and service for personal prosperity and for the common good.

You graduates have been blessed with the richest educational experience the world can offer. As Americans, you've been blessed to inherit the greatest country on Earth. Now you have to honor that debt by asking yourselves, "What do I want my country to be like in the 21st century, and what am I prepared to do to make it a reality?"

I will do all I can to give you the opportunities to make the most of your lives, but you must do all you can to assume responsibility for yourselves, your families, and your communities. If you do that, I believe your life will be a lot happier and richer and you will surely make the 21st century America's greatest days.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:11 p.m. at the Bryce Jordan Center. In his remarks, he referred to Graham Spanier, president; Leslie Arnette, chairman, Board of Trustees; John A. Brighton, executive vice president and provost; Rodney Erickson, professor, Pennsylvania State University; and Thomas Hollander, president, Pennsylvania State University Alumni Association.

## Statement on the Death of Calvin A.H. Waller

*May 10, 1996*

We mourn the passing of Lieutenant General Calvin A.H. Waller, U.S. Army (Ret.), whose dedicated and exceptional career is admired by everyone who knew of his extraordinary courage, inspiring leadership, and selfless service. During a distinguished career which culminated in his service as Deputy Commander of U.S. forces

in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm, General Waller achieved prominence as a skillful and disciplined professional and a caring, enthusiastic commander. His rise from humble beginnings to one of the highest-ranking African-American officers in the U.S. military through stalwart determination and a record of

excellence served as an inspiration to minority and nonminority officers. To General Waller's wife, Marion, his family and friends, and to the Army community, I extend my deepest sym-

pathy. He will be remembered as one of America's finest soldiers and most capable military leaders.

## Memorandum on the Welfare Initiative for Teen Parents

*May 10, 1996*

*Memorandum for the Secretary of Health and Human Services*

*Subject:* Welfare Initiative Regarding Teen Parents

This memorandum will confirm my directive to you to implement the plan I announced on Saturday, May 4, 1996, to help teen parents break free of the cycle of welfare dependency by living at home, staying in school, and getting the education they need to get good jobs.

I direct you to exercise your legal authority to take the following steps to implement that plan:

- (1) require States to submit plans describing how they will ensure that teen parents stay in school and prepare for employment;
- (2) require teen parents who have dropped out of school to sign personal responsibility plans that spell out how such teens are going to move towards supporting and car-

ing for themselves and their children, including attendance at school;

- (3) allow States to reward with cash allowances teen parents who stay in school and graduate, as well as require States to sanction teens who do not;
- (4) challenge States to use the authority they have to require minor mothers to live at home; and
- (5) monitor State performance in the foregoing areas.

You have advised me that you have legal authority to take these actions under titles IV-A and IV-F of the Social Security Act.

The plan I have outlined will help assure that the welfare system requires teen parents to follow responsible paths to independence. Its swift implementation is vital to achieving our goal of further instilling the American values of work, family, and personal responsibility into our welfare system.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

## The President's Radio Address

*May 11, 1996*

Good morning. Tomorrow millions of Americans will honor our mothers with hugs and bouquets and visits for dinner. Others of us will simply offer up a silent prayer for the mother who still lives in our heart but who has left this Earth. I miss my own mother very much, especially on Mother's Day. I can't give her roses tomorrow, but with your help we can honor all mothers by giving mothers-to-be something far more important, the assurance that when they bring a baby into this world, they will not be rushed out of the hospital until they and their health care provider decide it is medi-

cally safe for both mother and child. Today I want to discuss legislation that will guarantee mothers the quality care they need when they've had a baby.

In 1970, the average length of stay for an uncomplicated hospital delivery was 4 days. By 1992, the average had declined to 2 days. Now a large and growing number of insurance companies are refusing to pay for anything more than a 24-hour stay, except in the most extreme circumstances, and some have recommended releasing women as early as 8 hours after delivery.